



GP1732

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Uwe HEITMANN et al.

Application No.: 10/058,200

Filed: January 29, 2002

For: METHOD AND ARRANGEMENT
FOR PRODUCING COMPOUND
FILTERS

Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: Unknown

Atty. Docket No. 31976-177336 RK

Customer No.



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Second Preliminary Amendment

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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DEC - 3 2002

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700.

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the fees, please amend the claims of the above-identified application to read as follows:

IN THE DISCLOSURE:

Kindly amend paragraph 0022 to read as follows:

B1
--The object of the invention is further achieved by a method for producing compound filters for products in the tobacco-processing industry, comprising: supplying a filter tube to a predetermined position; and inserting predetermined portions of filtering material into the filter tube, the inserting step including inserting at least two portions of the filtering material into the filter tube during one operational step.--

Kindly amend paragraph 0024 to read as follows:

B2
--It is advantageous if a filter tube is made available and/or produced during a first operating step. The filter tube is

B2
preferably filled exclusively from one side, thus permitting a simple design for a corresponding apparatus for producing compound filters for products in the tobacco-processing industry.

If the filter tube is advantageously filled from both sides, the filling speed can be increased even further. For this, respectively one half is filled during one filling operation or during several filling operations, in which packets forming several segments are transferred.—

Kindly amend paragraph 0026 to read as follows:

B3
--The filter tubes are advantageously formed during a preceding operational step and preferably consist of wrapping material sections formed into tubes or tube-shaped wrappers. Filtering material segments preferably are or will be formed, which alternately contain granulated material and gas-permeable end pieces, such as soft elements of cellulose acetate, paper or non-woven material or the like. A filter with n-unit lengths is preferably formed wherein n is a natural, even number above 1.

A compound filter of n times the length is a filter with n times the usable length. Thus, we are here dealing with a multiple-unit filter with n times the usable length, wherein "multiple" stands for a plurality of segments of filtering material within the filter tube.—

Kindly amend paragraph 0027 to read as follows:

B4
--According to another aspect of the invention, a compound filter is advantageously produced according to one of the above-described methods.—

Kindly amend paragraph 0037 to read as follows:

B5
--According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided apparatus for producing compound filters for products